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PANDEMIC PERSPECTIVES: WHY DIFFERENT VOICES AND VIEWS MATTER

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Vidya Diwakar is a mixed methods researcher with over a decade of experience working in universities and thinktanks, most recently with the Chronic Poverty Advisory Network. Her research focuses on gender-disaggregated drivers of sustained escapes from

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Lopita Huq studied cultural anthropology at the New School for Social Research, New York and political studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. She is a Research Fellow at BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University. She conducts qualitative research on norms and practices related to women's work, marriage, education, adolescence, sexual harassment, and disabilities. Her interests include digitalisation, grass-roots mobilisation, citizenship, and rights. She also engages with the audiovisual medium. Her recent publications include *Material Barriers, Cultural Boundaries: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Gender and Labour Market Segmentation in Bangladesh* (UNU-WIDER Working Paper 2021-69, co-authored with Naila Kabeer and M.M. Rahaman).

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Takeemah Inglis-Jassiem is a physiotherapist with a keen interest and experience in the rehabilitation of neurological dysfunction. She is enrolled as a PhD candidate and has received funding from the South African National Research Foundation and the South African Medical Research Council (Bongani Mayosi National Health Scholars Programme). Her PhD project investigates technology to enhance contextually relevant stroke care in South Africa. She is a part-time researcher in the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Stellenbosch University, which investigates rehabilitation in Africa. She is one of the contributors to the book entitled, *Collaborative Capacity Development to Complement Stroke Rehabilitation in Africa* (2020, AOSIS).

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Rifat Shahpar Khan studied literature at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She is a Research Coordinator at BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University. Her areas of interest include disability and rights, child safeguarding, social inclusion, inclusive education, gender transformative programming, public health, child labour, and policy advocacy. She has experience in both qualitative and quantitative research. Previously, she worked at Sightsavers, AusAID (Dhaka), Humanity & Inclusion, and ActionAid. She co-authored *Defining Disability: A Guideline for Medical Doctors and Primary Health Care Workforce* (2019, Non-Communicable Disease Control Programme, Directorate General of Health Services, Bangladesh).

Shandana Khan Mohmand is a social scientist in the Governance cluster at the Institute of Development Studies, UK. Her main area of research is the political economy of public policy and service delivery, focused mainly on empirical analyses of democratisation, local politics, and informal institutions. Her research has increasingly focused on the relationship between political participation, inequality, and accountability. She has contributed to both policy and social science research, using varied methodological strategies to investigate these issues in South Asia, the Western Balkans, and sub-Saharan Africa.

Paul Knipe is Director of Consultancy, Impact and Influence at INTRAC. His interests include knowledge brokering, accompanied learning, and locally led approaches to influence policymaking and strengthen civil society. Before joining INTRAC, Paul ran

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Kate Lines is an independent research and communications consultant based in Copenhagen, Denmark. She has a background in urban development planning and management and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, UK. Her research interests relate to pro-poor urban development and she has collaborated with Slum Dwellers International (SDI) affiliates for several years to explore the ways in which professional communication and documentation can add value to the work of grass-roots urban social movements.

Mercilene Machisa focuses on gender-based violence (GBV) in Southern Africa. She has led GBV surveys and qualitative sub-studies in six countries; evaluated the health sector and criminal justice response to sexual violence in South Africa; elucidated the complex structural pathways and intersections between mental ill-health and GBV in Gauteng, South Africa; and conducted formative research, developed, and piloted the Ntombi Vimbela!, a sexual violence risk reduction intervention in South African Higher Education settings. As an honorary lecturer at the University of Witwatersrand's School of Public Health, she supports postgraduate students in conducting GBV and sexual and reproductive health and rights research.

Imran Matin is the Executive Director of the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), a research and postgraduate education institute at BRAC University. He leads BIGD with a mission to generate high-quality evidence and insights based on field research on governance and development challenges and interventions. Prior to his current role, he worked with BRAC, Save the Children International, and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA). Imran has a PhD in Economics from the University of Sussex, UK.

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Nomfundo Mthethwa is a Research Technologist at the South African Medical Research Council and has an MA in Medical Science. Her work focuses on disability, sexual and reproductive

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Patience Mudimu-Matsangaise is Executive Director of Dialogue on Shelter Trust, a non-governmental organisation in Zimbabwe that works in partnership with networks of urban and peri-urban communities in informal settlements. The partnership is an affiliate of Slum Dwellers International (SDI), a transnational network of slum dwellers federations centred around the urban poor in 33 countries and over 200 cities across the global South. The focus of the partnership is to create inclusive communities and cities through supporting social cohesion among marginalised communities. Patience anchors her current work on experience gained in urban development work in Zimbabwe in different capacities over the past 20 years.

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